

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were pending and under consideration in the application.

In the Office Action of July 9, 2008 claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi, U.S. 2007/0001921 (hereinafter, "*Takahashi*").

Claims 4-6, 8-10, 13-14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Takahashi* in view of Mizoguchi, et al., U.S. 6,593,841, (hereinafter, "*Mizoguchi*").

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Takahashi* in view of *Mizoguchi* and further in view of Ishida, et al., U.S. 6,953,841 .

Claims 3, 7, 12, 15, and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants seek to cancel claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-14, and 16 and to amend claims 3, 7, 12, 15, and 17 so as to obviate the Examiner's objection. No new matter is being added.

Applicants submit that the Examiner should enter the offered amendment, because the amendment places the case in condition for allowance. 37 CFR §1.116; MPEP 714.12, 714.13.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 3, 7, 12, 15, and 17 are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Serial No.: 10/595,279
Docket No.: 09792909-6676
Amendment "B" dated September 8, 2008
Reply to the Office Action of July 9, 2008

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

Respectfully submitted,

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